(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "AAI move fails to remove ills of system" as reported in the Statesman dated 3.10.99;

(b) If so, whether the defects came to the notice of AAI on various systems during the plane accidents in the last one year have not been rectified; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION <SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the defects which came to the notice of Airports Authority of India have been rectified. The new system was commissioned after prolonged tests and Trials and since its commissioning, there has been no system failure nor any defect noticed that could contribute to any aircraft incident. The automation system in use provides adequate safety alerts that help in Air Traffic Management. Improvement of Duty-Free Shops at International Airports

664. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how Government plan to improve the duty-free shops at afferent International airports in the country; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are losing crores in revenue because of inefficient ITDC outlets? N

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is currently licensed to run Duty Free Shops at international airports. ITDC has planned to improve the duty free shops and enlarge the product range with the advice of an internationally renowned Consultant.

(b) No, Sir.

Provision of Public Telephone Facility at Airports

665. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public booths of STD facilities are not available in certain Airports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide public telephone facility in the Airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) STD facilities are available at all international airports and a large number of domestic airports . Provision of STD

facilities is a continuous process depending upon the potential users and the traffic handled at an airport.

Setting up of an International Airport in Punjab

† 666. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no international airport has been set up in Punjab at present;

(b) the total amount of revenue earned by Government from the State through foreign travels;

(c) whether Government would take necessary action to set up an international airport, working 24 hours, at Ludhiana; and

(d) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. However, limited international flights are operating through Amritsar airport.

(b) The total revenue earned by Airports Authority of India from the State through foriegn travels is Rs. 10.20 lakhs in 1998-99.

(c) and (b) No airline has indicated any plan for international operations at Ludhiana airport. Therfore, there is no plan to set up an international airport there.

Operation of International Flights from Ahmedabad Airport

667. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has already been taken to upgrade the Ahmedabad Airport and rename it as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons for not operating the International flights from this Airport;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi